AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/771,880

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present Application[1].

Applicant amends claims 1 and 11-13 to clarify the original recitation thereof. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the original claims, and clarify that packet control means is capable of transmitting at least one of image information and character information (i.e., either or both). No estoppel is created.

The Examiner rejects:

- claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, due to allegedly indefinite recitation in claims 1 and 11-13; and
- claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (Chen, EPA 0 859 500 A2) in view of Toru (Toru, JPA 08-285086).

Also, the Examiner objects to the Abstract due to minor informalities.

Applicant provides a new Abstract which is believed to be in compliance with all of the formal requirements (including the 150-word limit). Also, the claims as amended above are believed to be in full compliance with the requirements of §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection to the abstract, and the §112, second paragraph, rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's prior art rejection as follows.

---

[1] Office Action Summary incorrectly lists claims "1-17". However, claims 1-18 are pending in this application (claim 18 having been added in the Preliminary Amendment filed July 3, 2002). The body of the Office Action does address claim 18 on the merits. Applicant responds accordingly.

11

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/771,880

Applicant's claimed invention provides an information search system, a terminal and a center comprising unique combinations of features, including *inter alia*, speech communication between terminal and center via speech signals, speech recognition, and packet communication based on speech recognition for sending and receiving at least one of image information and character information by performing packet communication with the center (see Applicant's independent claims 1, 11, 13 and 18).

Chen discloses nothing more than Applicant's acknowledged prior art (see Applicant's specification, page 1, line 23 through page 2, line 6). In fact, the Examiner acknowledges that Chen does not disclose "packet communication" as required by Applicant's claimed invention. That is, Chen discloses a method and an apparatus for browsing the World Wide Web (WWW) by means of a conventional wireless or wired telephone, wherein a WWW search is performed in response to a voice request, and the extracted information is "converted to ... either spoken voice, alphanumeric text, or a combination of both, and transmitted through the PSTN 22 to the user's telephone instrument" (Id., col. 5, lines 9-16). In particular, the object of Chen's invention is to "audibly "speak" the results [of a search request] to the end user, thereby eliminating the need for any display at the telephone instruments" (see Id., col. 5, lines 9-49). Thus, Chen teaches away from "packet communication" in conjunction with searching based on voice recognition.

On the other hand, Toru discloses a method wherein an HTML sentence data obtained as a search result is returned in response to a voice request from a mobile terminal user. (Notably, an objective of Chen's invention is to eliminate the need for providing HTML links (see Chen,

12

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/771,880

col. 1, line 39 through col., 2, line 5).) Nowhere does Toru disclose, teach or suggest

transmitting back to the mobile terminal user speech signals of a speech information obtained as

a search result. In fact, Toru does not even mention a possibility that its search result may

include speech information, let alone disclose or suggest how such a result may be

communicated back to the mobile terminal user.

Thus, absent Applicant's own disclosure, one skilled in the art would not have been

motivated to combine, or would not have known how to combine, Chen and Toru to achieve

Applicant's claimed invention.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 11, 13 and 18, as well as the dependent 2-10, 12 and 14-

17 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims),

would not have been obvious from Chen and Toru at least for these reasons.

In addition, in order to facilitate the Examiner's understanding, Applicant respectfully

submits the following.

A feature of Applicant's claimed invention is related to a technique where speech

recognition of an uttered person's voice is performed by a speech communication function,

where the result of recognition is assigned, for example, a keyword, and is transmitted to a

packet communication function. A packet communication function searches information (a letter,

an image, etc.) corresponding to the keyword from the Internet, and it transmits a message to a

terminal. The correlation between both addresses is necessary to convey information between

both of these communication functions.

13

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/771,880

The above-noted technique, is explained below in non-limiting, exemplary

implementations.

As recited in Applicant's claim 1, a terminal, (10) has a speech communication function

and packet communication function. In addition, a center (30) has a speech control section (15)

and a packet control section (19). By these functions, a search service can be realized

independently with each network.

In an exemplary, non-limiting, implementation of a search service using Applicant's

invention, the search word uttered is sent through the speech line switching network to the center

with the speech, the speech recognition is performed in the center, and the search result is

returned to the terminal with the speech. In addition, the packet control section 19 returns the

search result by the image, character information. Since the result is returned only by the speech

when the speech is input, the problem of the prior art – that the image information which cannot

be expressed with the speech cannot be returned – is solved.

In other exemplary, non-limiting, implementation of a search services using Applicant's

invention, the keyed character data is sent through the packet network to the center. In a search

service which outputs the character and the image (which are the search results in the center) to

the screen of a terminal through the packet network, the keyword can be inputted using speech

instead of key input.

In another exemplary, non-limiting, implementation of Applicant's invention, in a the

system which enables information switching between the different centers by correlating the

different terminal ID (speech communication address = telephone number) on the different

14

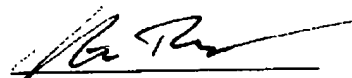AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/771,880

networks (speech communication network and packet communication network) and the ID' (IP

address), an address of a speech communication function and an address of a packet

communication function are registered by providing a table 24 (FIG. 3), and both are correlated

with each other (see Applicant's claim 3). The search word uttered is sent through the speech

line switching network to the center with the speech, the speech recognition is performed in the

center, and in the case of the search service for outputting the character and the image, which are

the search result, on the screen of the terminal through the packet network, when the search

result by the search word inputted from the speech communication function is returned as the

image and the character by the packet communication functions, since the speech

communication function and the packet communication function are mounted on the same

terminal, and since the speech communication address and the packet communication address at

the terminal side are different form each other, unless the correlation of the speech

communication address and the packet communication address (table (24)) is known, it will

become impossible to tell to which terminal the transmission should be made, and it becomes

impossible to make the return. According to the present invention, by correlating the speech

communication address and the packet communication address with, for example, table 24, it

becomes possible to realize one search service C (the search word uttered through the speech line

switching network is sent to the center with the speech, the speech is recognized in the center,

the character and the image, which are the search result, are outputted to the screen of the

terminal through the packet network) by extending over the different communication network.

15

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/771,880

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Torgovitsky
Registration No. 43,958

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 8, 2003

16